

Oifig Riathóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras an Chontae
Leifear

04 Mí na Nollag 2007

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall a bhí ar athró ó 26 Samhain ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain 10 Mí na Nollag 2007 ag **2.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an Cruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clár Ordaithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne
Riathóir Cruinnithe (RUNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford

04th December, 2007

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 26th November, 2007, will be held on Monday 10th December 2007 at 2.00pm, in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for viewing at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney
Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ITEMS RETAIN THEIR ORIGINAL ITEM NUMBERS SO AS TO CORRESPOND WITH REPORTS ALREADY ISSUED FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING)

AGENDA

6. **Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8)**
 - (e) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Carndonagh Town Park, Playground & Town Park Access Road.

7. **Planning Programme**
 - (b) To consider the Manager's Report on submissions to the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007.
 - (c) To consider the Manager's Report on submissions to the Draft additions to the Record of Protected Structures.

8. **Corporate Programme**
 - (a) Review of membership of Coiste na Gaeilge.
 - (b) Electoral Campaign 2007- Review and Recommendations

10. **Roads Programme**
 - (a) To consider and adopt the preferred route for the N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs. (Report previously circulated for September Council Meeting.)
 - (b) To consider and adopt the recommended route for the Buncrana Outer Relief Road.

11. **Community, Culture & Enterprise Programme**
 - (a) To adopt Donegal County Museum Strategic Management Plan.
 - (b) To adopt the County Donegal Heritage Plan 2007-2011.
 - (c) To adopt amendments to The Development Fund (Members Allocation).

15. **Mayor's Business**

16. **County Manager's Report**

MOTIONS

- (L) Local
- (C) County
- (O) Other

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

17. Clr. Alcorn
"That this County Council discuss the ongoing problem of potholes in our roads in this county and we come up with a system to have them improved on a much more regular basis." (C)
18. Clr. Slowey
"That this Council explore using a private accredited contractor for the erection and ongoing maintenance of public lighting in Donegal." (C)
19. Clr. O'Dochartaigh
"That Donegal County Council will put a speed limit on the Arduns Road between Dore and the Gweedore Junction to improve safety for the users of the road." (L)

Community, Culture & Enterprise

20. Clr. Gallagher
"That this Council expresses its disappointment with the Government for its intention to implement a new community childcare subvention scheme without any real consultation with community childcare providers and that we further declare that the present system of providing staffing grants is a more equitable measure rather than the direct subvention scheme under the new scheme which will benefit a small minority of parents and which will likely lead to closure of many community childcare facilities and naíonraí." (O)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

21. Clr. MacLochlainn
"That Donegal County Council install traffic calming measures at Radharc na Trabreige, Malin, at the earlier opportunity in consultation with local residents." (L)
22. Clr. McDonald
"That this Council fix lighting at Movice pier The Wharf which have been out of action for two years" (L)
23. Clr. McGuinness
"That this Council call on the Government and the Minister for Transport & Marine to reverse its decision to downgrade/close Malin Head Coastguard Station?" (L)

Planning & Economic Development

24. Clr. Donaghey
"That Sanitary Services and Planning staff meet with members and agents for developers whose planning applications have been withheld for developments along the east coast of Inishowen due to inadequate water supply. This issue is of paramount importance." (C)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

25. Clr. Larkin
"That this Council review/inspect all planning applications built in the last 7 years to make sure that storm water is not being re-directed into the sewer systems." (C)

Roads & Transportation

26. Clr. Crawford
""That this Council seek funding under the Interreg IV Programme for the L265 Lifford-Derry Road via St. Johnston." (L)

27. Clr. Harte
"That this Council call on the Government to provide funding for the proposed new link road from Bonagee to Ramelton Road." (L)

Community, Culture and Enterprise

28. Clr. McDaid
"That this Council discuss its role in facilitating the community and voluntary sector in the development of action plans and applications for consideration for funding under Peace 3 Programme." (C)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

29. Clr. McEniff
"That the Council connect the houses at Ashbrook Drive, Ballyshannon to the sewerage scheme now in progress in that area". (L)

Planning and Economic Development

30. Clr. Pringle
"That Donegal County Council asks the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to review the "Class 31" exempted development regulations in relation to mobile telephony and the maximum emission levels from antenna equipment." (C)

Corporate Services

31. Clr. O'Neill
"That this Council discuss the impact on the local economy resulting from the decline of pub licences in the county and the factors that have contributed to this decline." (O)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

32. Clr. McGarvey
"That this Council address the traffic difficulties in Ramelton as a matter of urgency." (L)
33. Clr. McBride
"That this Council undertake a complete review of all safety measures on roads leading to and from all schools in Donegal" (C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Community, Culture and Enterprise

34. Clr. A. Bonner
"That this Council designate The Balor Theatre as an "Arts Centre" for the Finn Valley and Donegal South East, similar to recent designation of "Abbey Theatre" in Ballyshannon and that proper support mechanism be put in place to support the wonderful work being done by the Balor." (L)

Housing and Building

35. Clr. McGowan
"That the Manager give a full progress report on Stranorlar Area Swimming Pool, the HSE/Council Offices One Stop Shop, with details of timeframes, funding and project staffing etc.." (L)

Roads & Transportation

36. Clr. Reid
"That the Council erect an Accident Black Spot sign at Stranmuch, Castlefinn." (L)

QUESTIONS

- (L) Local
- (D) County
- (O) Other

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

37. Clr. Alcorn
"What assistance is available to local festivals in tidying up their towns and villages prior and during their much needed festivals?"
(C)
38. Clr. Slowey
"What mechanism will Donegal County Council use for charging companies for the disposal of industrial effluent to Council Sewerage Treatment Plants?" (C)

Roads and Transportation

39. Clr. Alcorn
"Has this County Council any plans to improve the fencing and gates along the N56 in Loughanure village which was done as auxillary works when roadwork improvements was done in the village?" (L)

Corporate Services

40. Clr. Slowey
"What appeal procedures are in place within Donegal County Council Service Directorates for the refusal of grant applications?"
(C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Housing and Building

41. Clr. MacLochlainn
"When will a full report be presented to a meeting of Donegal County Council with an inventory of Council assets throughout the county including the estimated individual value of these assets for discussion by the members, as agreed at a previous meeting of the Council earlier this year? (C)

Water, Environment and Emergency Services

42. Clr. MacLochlainn
"Have the Water and Environment Section of Donegal County Council queried why householders in various locations in Donegal are being asked to pay the same for the disposal of recyclable goods as ordinary household waste despite the obvious difference in disposal costs for the private operators, and, if so, will they furnish the members with their response?" (C)
43. Clr. McDonald
"When will the bottle banks on Moville shore front that have been refused planning permission be removed?" (L)
44. Clr. Donaghey
"What progress has been made with regard to appointing a design team to progress urgent refurbishment work to Bunrana Leisure Centre?"
45. Clr. Donaghey
"What progress has been made regarding a Civic Amenity Centre for Bunrana, the second biggest town in Donegal?" (L)
46. Clr. McGuinness
"When will the Council upgrade/sort out the Gleneely Sewerage Scheme and how long will this take?" (L)

Roads and Transportation

47. Clr. McDonald
"What plans, if any, does this Council have to put ducting in place to remove overhead wires on approaches to Moville pier?" (L)

Community, Culture and Enterprise

48. Clr. McGuinness
"Will the Council reopen discussions with South Ayresshire Council regarding the feasibility of a Ferry Service between Greencastle/Moville and Troon?" (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

49. Clr. Larkin
"Will the Council be incorporating a roundabout into works to help our new Civic Amenity Site in Letterkenny?" (L)
50. Clr. Harte
"Can the Director of Roads confirm if a pedestrian crossing at the Hospital Corner in Lifford will be installed to help those in the Rehab Centre cross the road?" (L)

Planning and Economic Development

51. Clr. Larkin
"How does this Council prioritise how they deal with unauthorised developments in the Letterkenny area and how do the Council choose which unauthorised developments to deal with in the Letterkenny Town area?" (L)
52. Clr. Crawford
"What progress has been made in finding a resolution to the ongoing problems of unfinished works at Ard na Meala, St. Johnston?" (L)
53. Clr. McDaid
"What practical measures are this Council offering to Manorcunningham Environmental Group to assist and support

them in their efforts to carry out much needed environmental improvements to the village and its environs?" (L)

Water, Environment and Emergency Services

54. Clr. Crawford
"What progress has been made to bring Lagan Phase 3 Water to Manorcunningham and surrounding areas." (L)

Housing and Building

55. Clr. McDaid
"When can this Council expect to be furnished with the report on flooding in gardens of Council Housing Schemes promised by the Director of Housing and Building Services in response to my motion at the Council Meeting of November 2006 and subsequent question at March 2007 Council Meeting?" (L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment and Emergency Services

56. Clr. Pringle
"Is there any approval of the Killybegs Sewer Scheme contract documents expected from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government?" (L)
57. Clr. Pringle
"What will be the impact of the privatised sewerage treatment plants in Donegal Town and Rossnowlagh on maintenance budget of Water and Environment Service?" (L)
58. Clr. O'Neill
"Will Donegal County Council proceed with works to provide sewerage treatment at Carrickboy, Ballyshannon with the provision of a pumping station to serve the houses inside the town boundary that have been excluded from the new multi million euro town scheme? (L)

59. Clr. Kennedy
"Does Donegal County Council monitor the private refuse collection and have proper recycling measures been put in place?"
(C)

Roads and Transportation

60. Clr. O'Neill
"Will Donegal County Council proceed to construction with the new town centre car park in Ballyshannon considering that CPO's are now being put in place?" (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

61. Clr. McGarvey
"What is the total cost of the work being carried out to the Road at Norma Stewarts, Ballymaleel, Letterkenny, from start to completion?" (L)

Water, Environment and Emergency Services

62. Clr. McGarvey
"With regard to the commencement of works at the proposed reservoir at Milford, has the necessary land been acquired, and if not, what are the problems? (L)
63. Clr. McBride
"What progress has been made on the Glenvar Water Scheme and what is the proposed start date?" (L)

Planning and Economic Development

64. Clr. McBride
"When can we expect the Environmental Improvement Works to start in Milford?" (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

65. Clr. A. Bonner
"On what date is the Compulsory Purchase Orders and Environmental Impact Study for the Ballybofey/Stranorlar bypass to be published?" (L)
66. Clr. Reid
"Has any progress been made in negotiations with the Presbyterian Church, Convoy in relation to road repairs?" (L)

Water, Environment and Emergency Services

67. Clr. A. Bonner
"Will this Council please appoint a Project Manager to the Ballybofey/Stranorlar swimming pool to support the great work being carried out on this project?" (L)

Community, Culture and Enterprise

68. Clr. McGowan
"Can a full report be given on all projects under consideration by this Council through the Interreg Phase 4 and the Gateways Innovation Fund etc., so that the Elected Representatives might have an input?" (C)

Corporate Services

69. Clr. McGowan
"Can an annual report be given to the Council from Bodies/Groups that this Council is represented on outlining achievements and any issues dealt with throughout the year?" (C)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

70. FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
"That Fingal County Council, on foot of the discovery of unsuitable building materials used in the construction of floor plinths in residential dwellings within our jurisdiction, write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

with regard to creating additional regulation for chemical/petrographic analysis of all backfill materials used in excavations floors, road bases etc and that the relevant technical guidance documents of the Building Control Act, 1990 and 2007 be altered to reflect same.”

71. KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government be requested to amend Section 246(b) of the Planning Act, 2000 which requires that public representatives pay a statutory fee of €20.00 in respect of a submission made on a planning application. The amendment should abolish the fee requirement for public representatives in their local authority area.”

72. GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to remove the cap 10,000euro per house on the amount of money he is prepared to provide for sewerage schemes in accordance with Circular L7/06”

73. MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council expresses its disappointment with the Government for its intention to implement a new Community Childcare Subvention Scheme without any real consultation with Community Childcare providers. That we further declare that the present system of providing staffing grants is a more equitable measure rather than the direct subvention proposed under the new scheme which will benefit a small minority of parents which will likely lead to the closure of many community crèches and playschools.

We hereby call on the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D. to support the role of community childcare outlets recognising that they have been responsible for providing a vital service which has allowed many parents to return to the workplace and equally important offering early learning opportunities for pre school children. We demand that the proposed scheme be abandoned in favour of a more equitable scheme based on the current model.”

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 10th
DECEMBER, 2007.

C/582/07 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. J. Boyle, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, G Crawford, R. Donaghey, M.T. Gallagher, J. Harte, J. Kelly, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, N. Mc Bride, T. Mc Daid , M. Mc Donald, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, B. Mc Guinness, P. O' Dochartaigh, B. O' Neill, T. Pringle, T. Slowey.

C/583/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clrs Brogan, Mac Lochlainn and Mc Gonagle who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/584/07 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael Mc Loone, County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director Housing & Building, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. Michael Heaney, Director , Community, Culture and Enterprise, Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Ms Sinead Harkin, Executive Planner, Mr. Joe Gallagher, Heritage Officer, Ms Judith Mc Carthy, Museum Curator, Ms Cliodhna Campbell, Executive Engineer, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/585/07 TO CONSIDER MANAGER'S REPORT ON
SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT BUNCRANA AND
ENVIRONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2007

Members continued consideration of the Manager's Report and Addendum, circulated at the Council Meeting on the 26th November, together with the Addendum, circulated at the Adjourned Meeting today outlining revised and additional amendments adopted by Buncrana Town Council.

*Amendment to Appendix A of the Draft Plan entitled
Development Guidelines and Technical Standards
(Addendum circulated 26.11.07)*

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan it was resolved to materially alter Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 amend Appendix A of the entitled Development Guidelines and Technical Standards at page 1, Section 1.2 paragraph 1 so as to state:

“The standards for construction set out in the DoEHLG publication, Recommendations for site development works FOR housing areas 1998’ or any subsequent amended version of this document adopted by the Council, shall apply to all new housing estate development.

Mr. Francie Coyle, advised that submissions No. 1 – 42 had already been dealt with on the 26th November 2007.

Submission No. 43 by Mr. Hugh Mc Gonagle c/o Galbraith Associates

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to materially alter the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 by rezoning from ‘Local Environment’ to ‘Opportunity site 7’ in accordance with recommended alteration ref 14 as delineated on the accompanying ‘Map Booklet of Alterations’.

and

amending the draft plan by inserting additional Opportunity site text at page 31 of the draft plan, so as to state:

‘Opportunity Site 7:Cockhill Road

This unique site is located on the ‘edge of town centre’ and is to the east of Opportunity Site 2. This site is complex given its potential for development due to the proximity to the town centre set against the need to provide adequate protection to the historic access to Buncrana Castle (Protected Structure) and therein to the overall context and setting of the protected structure, and also the need to provide protection to the views and character to be had from the public walkways that exist and that are delineated as proposed in this plan.

Therefore, any future proposal on this site shall ensure the development proposal provides for the integration and protection of the context and setting of the protected structure, and the integration of existing and proposed walkways in such a manner so as to harness these historical,

cultural and environmental resources that will assist in providing a quality edge of town centre development.

Submission No. 44 by Mr. Martin Doherty

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to materially alter the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 so that the zoning objective on the land use zoning map and at page 21 of the core document, in relation to 'Local Environment' reads as follows:

- *'To provide for a spatial development pattern that is reflective of a dispersed rural settlement pattern and that is related in form and scale to the level of existing physical and social infrastructure in the area and that can be integrated and absorbed into the landscape'.*

- *To materially alter the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 so as to amend Policy BNH11, page 61 of the core document, so that it reads as follows:*
'BNH11: Development within 'local environment' zoning
Proposals for development within the lands zoned, as 'local environment' will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that:
 - (a) The development is reflective of a dispersed rural settlement pattern in a manner in line with the proper planning & sustainable development of the area.*
 - (b) The development is related in form and scale to the level of existing physical and social infrastructure in the area.*
 - (c) The development can be integrated and absorbed into the landscape*
 - (d) The development is of a high standard of architectural quality in both design and layout.**The areas zoned 'local environment' are areas that are of a rural nature at present and or are generally on the fringe of the town and or consist of a dispersed small scale development pattern within and or are of a landscape quality that is not appropriate for widespread and large scale development'.*

- *To materially alter the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 so as to amend Policy H5, page 47 of the core document, to read as follows: -*

‘Residential development will be considered on lands zoned ‘local environment’ where it is demonstrated that policy BNH11 can be complied with.’

Submission No. 46 by Mr. Michael Galbraith, Galbraith Associates

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to materially alter the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 so as to amend the first paragraph of H10: Housing Densities, page 48 of the core document from:

‘Unless otherwise indicated on the land use zoning map, housing densities shall generally be in line with the density of any surrounding existing housing development. As a guide, densities of 20 units per hectare will be appropriate in suburban/ greenfield sites whilst higher densities of up to 40 units per hectare shall be sought for brownfield sites and sites in proximity to the town centre.’

to

‘Housing densities shall generally be in line with the density of any surrounding existing housing development. As a guide, densities of 20 units per hectare will be appropriate in suburban/greenfield sites whilst higher densities in the region of 40 units per hectare shall be sought for brownfield sites and sites in proximity to the town centre.’

The Council was informed that Buncrana Town Council at a Special Meeting on the 26th November 2007 had adopted revised and additional amendments to the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan, which must now be considered by Donegal County Council.

Additional Amendment No. 1(Cockhill Road) as adopted by Buncrana Town Council

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to materially alter the the Draft

Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 so as to amend the zoning from ‘Recreation, Amenity & Open space’ to ‘Primarily Residential.’

Additional Amendment No. 2 (Clonbeg) as adopted by Buncrana Town Council

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to materially alter the the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 so as to amend the zoning from “ Strategic Residential Reserve” to “ Primarily Residential”

Revised Amendment Submission 34(1)(Porthaw) as adopted by Buncrana Town Council

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to materially alter the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 and rezone from ‘Opportunity Site 1’ to ‘Local Environment’ as delineated on the attached map entitled ‘Revised Amendment Submission 34(1).’

Revised Amendment Submission 34(2))(Porthaw) as adopted by Buncrana Town Council

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to materially alter the the Draft Buncrana and Environs Development Plan 2007 and rezone from ‘Biodiversity Protection Area’ to ‘Biodiversity Protection Area A’ as delineated on the attached map entitled ‘Revised Amendment Submission 34(2).

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to amend the Draft Buncrana & Environs Development Plan 2007 subject to the recommendations set out in the Managers Report (September 2007) and to publish said amendments (together with information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed amendment) which is deemed to be a material alteration to the draft plan, in accordance with Section 12(7) of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

C/586/07 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO
CARNDONAGH TOWN PARK, PLAYGROUND &
TOWN PARK ACCESS ROAD

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above, together with supplementary report from Mr. Michael Mc Garvey, Senior Engineer circulated at the meeting.

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, with regard to Carndonagh Town Park was approved subject to further consultation between the Executive, the Elected Members and other interested parties in relation to the extension to the Town Park, access road and associated pedestrian and vehicular access. It was agreed that the exact location of the Playground within the Town Park would be agreed through the Town Park Design process and associated public consultation process.

C/587/07 TO CONSIDER MANAGER'S REPORT ON
SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT ADDITIONS TO THE
RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. A. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Mc Bride, it was resolved in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2006: -

- (a) Not to proceed with the addition of :
RPS 40900802: School House, Fanad (No.12)
RPS 40907601: Old Comeen School, Cloghan, (No. 18) to the Record of Protected Structures.
- (b) To add the remainder of the structures contained in Appendix 1 numbered (1-11,13-17& 19-30) to the Record of Protected Structures.

C/588/07 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF COISTE NA GAEILGE

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. O' Dochartaigh, it was resolved that membership of the

committee be extended to include one nominee from each of the Town Councils.

C/589/07 ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN – REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

Clr. Slowey called for the setting up of an independent Electoral Commission to deal with all aspects of the electoral process including the Register of Electors.

Members debated the issues and concerns raised in the report and agreed that the matter should be further considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator advised that policy issues at national level needed to be reviewed including the possible use of PPS numbers in the identification process.

C/590/07 TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE PREFERRED ROUTE FOR THE N56 MOUNTCHARLES TO KILLYBEGS.

Members were informed that this matter had been deferred from the September Council Meeting.

The Mayor advised that the first section of the route i.e. Mountcharles – Inver had been agreed at a recent meeting with the NRA.

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved that the Council approve the route selection report for Mountcharles-Inver, subject to a review by Donegal County Council of the section from Inver Bridge to Killybegs at the appropriate time.

C/591/07 TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE RECOMMENDED ROUTE FOR THE BUNCRANA OUTER RELIEF ROAD

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr, Mc Guinness, it was resolved to amend the “ Red-Route with the Pink Tie-in Route, as detailed in the original Roads Design Route Selection Report adopted, subject to the final section at Cockhill being reviewed at the earliest opportunity, and a minimum amount of disruption being caused to local farmers.

C/592/07 TO ADOPT DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan, it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Museum Strategic Management Plan subject to and without prejudice to the budgetary process.

C/593/07 TO ADOPT THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE PLAN 2007-2011

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

It was agreed that the Director of Community, Culture and Enterprise should explore all possibilities for the sourcing of additional funding.

Members also advised that contact be made with the National Monuments Section in relation to liasing with the Expert Group which was currently carrying out an audit of Irish Battlefield sites.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan it was resolved to adopt the County Donegal Heritage Plan 2007 – 2011 subject to and without prejudice to the budgetary process.

C/594/07 TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND (MEMBER'S ALLOCATION)

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

Concern was raised in relation to a number of the proposed amendments to the Member's Development Fund arising from the Internal Auditor's Report.

It was acknowledged that the principal aim of the fund was to give member's discretion in allocating financial aid to a range of well deserving community groups. Members felt that some of the criteria outlined would, in the long run damage the flexibility of the scheme.

Mr. Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer advised that the purpose of the Internal Auditor's Report had been to look at a wide range of funds in respect of the checks, balances and controls in place. The audit, he noted, had covered a wide range of schemes in the Community and Enterprise Directorate.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Slowey it was resolved that the report be reviewed internally and referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration. The County Manager advised that a copy of the Internal Auditor's Report would be circulated to Members'.

C/595/07 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Flight of the Earls

The Mayor acknowledged a letter of congratulations received from Ms Aideen Doherty, Area Manager, Community, Culture and Enterprise on behalf of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Members. The letter congratulated Clr. Boyle on his outstanding dedication to the Flight of the Earls Project.

The Mayor advised that a letter of thanks had also been received from Clr. Gary Carville, Mayor of Monaghan County Council, expressing his thanks for the welcome and hospitality shown to him at the recent reception in Rathmullan.

Regional Development Committee Delegation

The Mayor advised that he had received a letter of thanks from the Regional Development Committee of the European Parliament who had recently visited the county.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Donegal Branch

Clr. Boyle informed members that he had received a letter of thanks from the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (Donegal Branch) following their recent presentation to the General Purposes Committee. He further updated the Council on the work of the society.

Votes of Sympathy

- Mr. James Boyle, Senior Engineer, Roads on the death of his sister, Mrs Frances Duffy.
- Mr. Patrick Mc Fadden(Waterworks Inspector) on the death of his father, Mr. Eddie Mc Fadden.
- Mr. Gerry Rush (Housing and Building Programme) on the death of his mother, Mrs Maggie Rush.

- Clr. J.J Reid on the death of his brother, Mr. Frank Reid and his sister, Mrs Bernie Begley.
- Mr. James Mc Kenna (Buncrana Fire Station) on the death of his mother, Mrs Mary Mc Kenna.
- Ms Miriam Browne (Finance Section) on the death of her mother, Mrs Nellie Bonar.
- Mr. Sean Flanagan (Water and Environment, Ballybofey) on the death of his son Michael Flanagan.
- The family of the late Bernie and Lisa Mc Elhinney, Muff who were killed in a tragic car accident.
- The Kennedy Family, Inver on the recent tragic death of Liam and Ciaran Kennedy.
- The family of the late Barry Gallagher, Killybegs
- The family of the late Anne Marie Byrne, Teelin.

NRA Delegation

Members were informed that the recent NRA delegation to Dublin had resulted in a positive outcome with a number of projects being discussed in detail.

Excellence in Local Government Awards

Congratulations was extended to the IS Section in respect of their recent success in the Excellence in Local Government Awards for I.T. (Broadband).

Marine Rescue Service- Malin Head

The Mayor noted that it was imperative that the Marine Rescue Service was kept in the county.

C/596/07

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager outlined the main points of his report together with the addendum circulated during the meeting.

Cratlagh Wood

Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation read into the record the contents of the Donegal County Council Report on investigation of events at Cratlagh Wood.

The County Manager stated that the onus was now on himself and the Director of Roads and Transportation to deal with the staff involved on the project commensurate with the levels of responsibility involved.

He advised that the introduction of more stringent controls was necessary. The case, he acknowledged, was not closed and if more solid evidence came to light it would be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Attendance of County Manager at HSE Board Meetings

Members expressed serious concern at recent newspaper reports noting the record of attendance compiled by the Manager in respect of his attendance at meetings over the past three years. It was agreed that the report in the Irish Independent had been grossly misleading and was extremely unfair given the manager's proven track record in the public service.

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the Council resolved to pass a vote of confidence in the County Manager recognising his work as Donegal County Manager and on various bodies.

It was further resolved on the proposal of Clr. Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr. Mc Eniff, that correspondence be forwarded to the Editor of the Irish Independent requesting a retraction and an apology in relation to the various inaccuracies published in a recent edition of the paper.

C/597/07

REVIEW AND INSPECTION OF ALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS BUILT IN THE LAST 7 YEARS TO MAKE SURE THAT STORM WATER IS NOT BEING REDIRECTED INTO SEWER SYSTEMS.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Mc Daid the following motion was adopted: -

“That this Council review/inspect all planning applications built in the last 7 years to make sure that storm water is not being redirected into sewer systems.”

Members were informed that: -

“There is an onus on all developers to ensure that they comply with their obligations regarding disposal of storm water in the appropriate manner.

To carry out such a review would take considerable time and resources and would involve Roads and Water & Environment staff. If there are specific cases which are a matter for concern arrangements can be made to follow them up.”

Clr. Larkin called on the County Manager and the Director of Roads and Transportation, in conjunction with the Planning SPC, to initiate a policy for dealing with buildings and houses as soon as they are completed. He asked that the use of the SUDS System be examined.

Members highlighted the ongoing problem of flooding in Council estates and noted that a more concerted effort was needed to alleviate such problems.

The issue of flooding on county roads was also discussed with members calling on the Director of Roads and Transportation to contact local engineers and address the water problem.

It was acknowledged that increased co-operation was necessary between the Planning and the Roads Directorates. Clr. Larkin called for a speedy resolution to ongoing problems at Glenwood Park, Letterkenny.

The County Manager affirmed that the policy could be reviewed at SPC level with an emphasis on addressing the problems on a selective basis. He agreed to talk to both the Roads and the Planning Directorates with the aim of providing members with a comprehensive update.

C/598/07

ONGOING PROBLEM OF POTHOLES IN OUR ROADS

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Mc Eniff, the following motion was adopted: -

“That this Council discuss the ongoing problem of potholes in our roads in this county and we come up with a system to have them improved on a much more regular basis.”

Members were informed that: -

“Budget Book 2007 lists the activities covered under Road Maintenance including Pothole, Drainage, Grass Cutting, Street Cleaning, Litter Removal, Flooding, Winter Maintenance and other tasks. In addition, Budget Book 2007 (Page 34) highlights that €16.8 million is needed for Road Maintenance to provide the level of service demanded while €13.5 million is actually provided and goes on to say that work will need to be prioritised at local area meetings. Regarding the system of pothole filling and the frequency in the Glenties area, the Council will examine this area and make comparisons with other areas to see if best practice is being employed on a uniform basis throughout the county. It is hoped to do this in early 2008.

A lengthy debate ensued with members highlighting the necessity of reviewing the current policy for the repair of potholes. It was generally agreed that the issue was a major problem in all Electoral Areas. A number of members called for a review of the current maintenance budget so as to allocate any remaining funds to the repair of potholes. It was acknowledged that the clearing of water tables and the carrying out of works earlier in the year were two essential elements in dealing with the problem. The allocation of specific manpower was also deemed necessary.

Clr. Alcorn asked that a concerted effort be made to deal with problems in the Glenties Electoral Area before the Christmas break.

The Director of Roads and Transportation noted that the Roads SPC had looked at various methods for repairing potholes. He agreed to look at the current system and advised that both Mr. James Boyle, Senior Engineer and himself would visit each Electoral Area in the coming year and advise in relation to specific funding requirements.

C/599/07

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Eniff, seconded by Clr.

Conaghan, it was resolved to adjourn the Meeting until

Monday 17th December, 2007 to deal with the remaining business on the agenda.